

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/764,212
Amendment dated January 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 28, 2003

REMARKS

Applicant has amended Claim 1, the only claim being prosecuted, to clarify the present invention.

As now presented, Claim 1 is to a completely waterproofed bag that has a main body made of mesh material as a whole except for an opening portion, and a completely waterproofed inner bag to be detachably put in the main body, with the main body including a plurality of hooks located on its outer surface. A smooth-surface outer cover is provided which is detachably put on the plurality of hooks outside of the main body and is formed to just fit on the main body so as to cover the mesh material completely. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

Claim 1 has been rejected as obvious in view of a combination of Salz (U.S. 6, 186,201) and Reich, II (U.S. 4,489,770). Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is stated that Salz discloses the invention by showing a main body 120 and an outer cover 110 with a smooth surface. Reich II is cited to show a detachable, waterproof inner bag 18 within the main body of another flexible bag.

The Office Action then alleges that (1) it would have been obvious to use a mesh material for the Salz main body and a smooth surface material for the outer cover and/or (2) it would have been obvious to provide the main body of Salz with the detachable, waterproof inner bag of Reich II.

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It appears that the Office Action overlooks the fact that the present claimed structure has three interacting units; a main body (1) of mesh material, a waterproof inner bag (3) with hooks (5) detachably securing (1) and (3); and a smooth surface outer cover (9) with hooks (10) detachably securing (1) to (9). The outer cover (9) is formed to just fit on the main body (1) so as to cover the mesh material completely. This is basically the embodiment shown in Figure 2 of the present application.

The Salz and Reich II combination does not teach or suggest the three component construction of the bag means of Claim 1.

As now amended, Claim 1 provides that the smooth-surface outer cover of the bag means is formed to just fit on the main body so as to cover the mesh material completely.

Absent Applicant's disclosure, there is no reason that one skilled in the art would combine the two cited references in an attempt to arrive at the claimed waterproof bag means. Also, even when such a combination is made, one would not arrive at the present claimed construction where a smooth-surface detachable outer cover is provided that is formed to just fit on the main body so as to cover the mesh material completely, as called for in amended Claim 1.

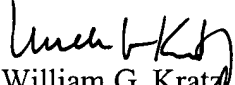
In view of the present amendment to Claim 1 and the above remarks, Applicant's claim is believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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